

Applicant notes that the Office Action again acknowledges the claim to priority and indicates that the certified copies of the priority documents filed on September 22, 2000 have been received.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action includes a copy of the PTO Form 1449 that was submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 22, 2000, as requested in the amendment filed on July 22, 2002. Each of the references is initialed by the Examiner, thereby indicating that these references were considered by the Examiner.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. Claims 1-6 and 8-13

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,880,704 (Takezaki). This rejection is traversed.

Regarding claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Takezaki discloses a shield member (screen shutter unit 1) and a drive mechanism (shutter control portion 2) for driving the screen shutter unit 1. In Takezaki, as shown in Fig. 1, the screen shutter unit 1 comprises shutter strips 1a and shutter slits 1b. The slits 1b are moved horizontally so that the intensity and direction of the light rays from the three-dimensional image can be regenerated while the light rays that first reach the viewer's eyes remain as an after image, thereby creating the three-dimensional image for the view.

Applicant submits that the movement of the slits 1b of Takezaki to create the three-dimensional image does not shut off the image between frames, as in the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Takezaki includes no teaching or suggestion to control the slits 1b in order to shut off the image displayed by the image display device. Since the screen shutter unit 1 includes evenly spaced slits 1b that always transmit light from and to the display unit 3, it appears that it is not even possible to shut off the image displayed by the display

unit (see Fig. 1A). Further, it appears that if the device of Takezaki were operated to shut off the image displayed by the display unit 3, as in the present invention, it would not be possible to create the desired three-dimensional image. Therefore, Applicant submits that it would not have been obvious to modify Takezaki to shut off the image because this would destroy the purpose of Takezaki.

Regarding claim 5, the Examiner asserts that it is feasible to fabricate the shutter strips into an endless belt. Applicant submits that Takezaki does not teach or suggest to fabricate the shutter strip into an endless belt. Absent this teaching or suggestion, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to form a prima facie case of obviousness. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to cite a reference that teaches this feature, or withdraw the rejection (see MPEP 2144.03). Since a shield member comprising an endless belt is neither taught or suggest by Takezaki, Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is improper.

Regarding claim 6, the Examiner asserts that a liquid crystal projection device is well known in the art and that it would have been obvious to add an optical system to the liquid crystal image display device of Takezaki in order to magnify and project light. Applicant submits that Takezaki does not teach or suggest a shield member that performs the function recited in claim 6. In addition, Applicant submits that Takezaki does not teach or suggest a shield member that shuts off an image, as recited by independent claim 1, on which claim 6 depends, as presented above in the discussion of the rejection of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper.

Regarding claims 9 and 13, Applicant submits that Takezaki includes no teaching or suggestion to control the slits 1b in order to shut off the image between frames, as recited by claim 9, on which claim 13 depends. Since the screen shutter unit 1 includes evenly spaces slits 1b that always transmit light from and to the display unit 3, it appears that it is not even possible to shut off the image displayed by the display unit (see Fig. 1A). Further, it appears that if the device of Takezaki were operated to shut off the image displayed by the display unit 3 between frames,

as in the present invention, it would not be possible to create the desired three-dimensional image. Therefore, Applicant submits that it would not have been obvious to modify Takezaki to shut off the image between frames because this would destroy the purpose of Takezaki.

Therefore, since Takezaki does not teach or suggest each and every element of claims 1-5 and 8-13, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 1-5 and 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is improper.

B. Claim 7

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takezaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,654,756 (Takahashi). This rejection is traversed.

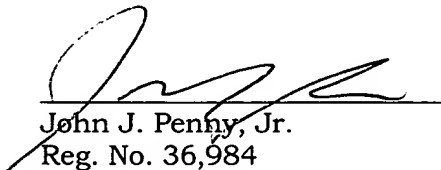
Applicant submits that Takahashi fails to make up for the above-noted deficiencies of Takezaki. That is, Takahashi fails to teach or suggest a shield member that shuts off an image displayed by the display device. Further, Applicant submits that neither Takezaki nor Takahashi teaches or suggests a shield member that performs the function recited in claim 7. Therefore, since the combination of Takezaki and Takahashi fails to form the invention defined by claim 7, Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is improper.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

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